



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

Travis County, City of Austin, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

1st and 2nd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners*)

**Q1 & Q2 data for Baker Sanctuary (Travis Audubon) and The Nature Conservancy was not provided.*

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	447	12782	6200	749.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	28	1209	1261	22
	Onsite	33	334	960	201.5
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	19	141	318	25
Land Stewardship	Onsite	169	81	1281	3325.25
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	104	0	99	682
Administration	Onsite	5	23	46	24
Training	Onsite	11	0	204	114.5
Campouts	Onsite	0	00	0	0
October-March Total		816	14570	10369	5143.75

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$31.80/hour): \$163,571.25

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.

Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906

Baker Sanctuary: 558



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CITY OF AUSTIN



- Over 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted by staff and volunteers on the JJ&T and Vireo Preserves as part of juniper-oak woodland restoration efforts, which also included erosion control, soil improvement, and native seeding along bioswales.
- Invasive privet removal continued on the Long Canyon tract, and 58 volunteers began Golden-cheeked Warbler resighting surveys, identifying 13 banded birds.
- Collaborative training events were held, including cave rescue training with the Austin Fire Department for over 120+ Special Operations firefighters. We also partnered with Travis County Parks and several Travis County Emergency Services Districts to host the S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface training.
- Wildlands staff engaged the public by tabling at the Austin Public Library Roots & Wings event, Barton Springs University Day, and UT's Hot Science Cool Talks series. Additionally, they led tours for the National Parks Service Superintendents to Grassy Cove Cave and for the Camacho Activity Center's Varsity Group on a Golden-cheeked Warbler hike.
- Wildlands supported CaveSim at McBee Elementary School in partnership with Austin Watershed Protection Department reaching 147 students.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- Travis County extended our outreach efforts to include other Travis County groups, such as the Green Team. We had them out on a guided hike on our Snowden and Bunten tracts and were joined by County Commissioner (Precinct 3) Ann Howard. We also had an Open House at our Snowden house, which offered self-guided hikes on both our Collins and Snowden outreach trails.
- We continued to expand education efforts by partnering with Laurel Mountain Elementary for in-class programs. Our Woodland Wonders event included tree planting with children, a story walk, and crafting. Other outreach events that have brought in numerous attendees include Astronomy Nights, and nature-themed crafting days that included family-friendly tree planting.
- Volunteers continued vital restoration activities, including reforesting swales and berms at the Medway tract. Notably, our Pride on the Preserve event garnered great volunteer turnout. We planted 3,019 trees this year in total!



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WILD BASIN



Fall 2024 Artist in Residence: Alicia Philley

- Provided two art workshops for the public
- Artwork was on display in visitor gallery from Dec - Mid January

Speaker and Social Series: This monthly in person speaker and social event allows the public to participate in a relaxed atmosphere learning opportunity. Q1 & Q2 topics included:

- Wildfire: Rhetoric, Reality and the Practical Solutions; Glen Gillman; TC Fire Marshal's Office
- Welcoming Wildlife; Natasia Moore; TPWD
- Rewilding Wellness; Moira Martin Ph.D; SEU Faculty
- An Evening of Storytelling about Land Stewardship by our Stewardship Volunteers
- Long Term Monitoring of the endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: Darrell Hutchinson

Wild By Wild Basin WXWB (Spring Break):

- 300 guests interacted with trailhead popup tent organizations
- 770 visitors during the nine days of spring break

Tacos and Trash Service Day (February)

We had 20 students and a couple of staff from St. Edward's University eat breakfast tacos and pick up trash along the Hwy. 360 boundary of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. They collected 15 bags of loose trash with a focus on micro trash. We also recycled two bags worth of plastic, aluminum cans and glass bottles, and a five-gallon bucket full of metal.

Stewardship Highlights

Volunteers continue to restore several sections of degraded trail by laying down mulch and setting rock steps. The mulch is from working with Travis County TNR crews to chip vegetative debris removed from the trail and boundary at Wild Basin. In addition to restoring the trail, this helps reduce the fuel load in the preserve and improve erosion control measures along the trails. One big highlight is the demo of the old footbridge and then the building of a new footbridge on the Arroyo Vista Trail.



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WESTCAVE



- From October 2024 to March 2025 we had 40 experiential learning field trips, engaging 1,508 students in nature, creating lasting memories, broadening horizons, and inspiring future leaders.
- From March 8th-23rd 2025 our educator staff welcomed over 1,724 visitors from around the world on 53 guided hikes.
- Westcave was recognized by the Hill Country Master Naturalist (HCMN) chapter for our partnership with their organization over the years. It has been a valuable and encouraging relationship for both parties. We are grateful for all the conservation volunteers that we have had from the HCMN group each season.

Photos above:

- HCMN sign that is now posted at Westcave's new Environmental Learning Center. *(left)*
- We have recently restarted our "Anything With Wings" surveys and this is one of winged friends that we have been seeing. *(right)*



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ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes

Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs/Presentations

Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship

Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring

Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts

Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups/Educators

Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.